(SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): During the last three years 31 fishing trawlers have been imported and the amount spent is Rs. 2419 lakhs approximately.

Water to Madras City under the Telugu Ganga Project

3170. DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the propostal to give water to Madras city under the Telugu-Ganga Project has been finalised;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what are the reasons for the delay in implementing the proposal; and

(c) by when the Telugu-Ganga project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c) The Telugu-Ganga, Project *inter alia* envisages supply of water for Madras City. The proposal has not been finalised because the techno-economic clearance cannot be given until the inter-State issues are resolved and clearance from the environmental and forest conservation angles has been obtained by the State Government.

Potable Water to Villages

3171. DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages provided with potable water during the Sixth Five Year Plan;

(b) what was the target for the Sixth Plan; and

(c) what are the targets set up for the supply of potable water during Seventh Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAMANAND YADAV): (a) During the Sixth Plan 1,92,024 problem villlages were provided with drinking water facilities.

(b) During the Sixth Plan, the aim was to cover 2,30,784 problem villages.

(c) During the Seventh Plan, the target is to cover approx. 227000 problem villages.

Setting up of Soda Ash Plant at Phulpur

3172. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in December, 1981 the then Minister of Agriculture had announced that a Soda ash plant would be set up by the Indian Farmers Fertilizer Co-operative Limited at Phulpur; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not setting up of the plant so far.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU): (a) and (b) We have no records to show that the then Minister of Agriculture had made such an announcement. However, IFFCO had been granted a letter of Intent in 1982 for setting up a Soda ash/ammonium chloride plant at Phulpur. The plant could not be set up mainly due to the folowing reasons:—

(i) The project envisaged utilisation of surplus ammonia and carbon dioxide from the existing amonia plant after meeting the full requirements of urea plant, but operation of the existing ammonia plant during the past four years has not yielded any surpluses;

(ii) The plant was to be based on indigenous technology, which has not stabilised at a high level of production;

(iii) The project cost has escalated by about Rs. 20 crores and might increase further if imported technology has to be used. This

would affact the viability of the project; and

(iv) IFFCO's resources are committed to the Aonla Project and revamping of the existing units.

Land reforms in Bihar

3173. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that implementation of land reform measures continue to remain unsatisfactory in Bihar:

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of the steps taken by Government to ensure the effective implementation of these measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAMANAND YADAV): (a) Attention of the Central Government has been drawn towards unsatisfactory implementation of land reforms in Bihar.

(b) Among the reasons generally attributed to the slow progress of land reforms, the more prominent are : inadequate implementation machinery, heavy litigation and insufficient number of courts, lack of awareness and organisation among rural poor tenants and share-croppers and their inability to fight cases in courts, lack of proper orientation of law and order machinery and insufficient determination on the part of Government.

(c) Land being a State subject, remedial action has to be taken by the State Government. The State Government have reported the following measures taken by them for effective implementation of land rforms:—

(i) Recently, Bihar Tenancy Act has been amended with a view to confer ownership rights to the share-croppers. The collectors of the districts have been given powers to ensure that after the conferment of ownership rights to the share-croppers, they are kept in continuous peaceful possession. Restrictions have also been imposed on the transfer of such lands wherein share-croppers' rights are involved.

(ii) Some more amendments in the law are on the anvil to check transfer of land belonging to tribals and protect tribals' interest in their land. Administrative machinery in tribal areas is being strengthened to identify cases of alienation of tribal land and their disposal.

(iii) A law has been enacted for constituting a tribunal under Article 323-B of the Constitution for expeditious disposal of pending litigation connected with ceiling laws. The tribunal will start functioning shortly.

(iv) Special drives for disposal of revenue and land reform matters are being held. Instructions have been issued to District Officers to ensure that allottees of ceiling surplus lands are not dispossessed.

(v) State Government have also announced a scheme for rewarding persons who bring to light cases of suppressed holdings of land in excess of ceiling limit. All available Government land is also being settled with eligible beneficiaries.

(vi) Law and order machinery has been directed to give prompt and timely help to safeguard the rights and possession of people to whom land has been distributed. Monitoring Committee has been constituted at the district level to review the action taken in this regard.

Development of 'Shakti Sthal'

3174. SHRI K. GOPALAN:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: